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#### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### R.I. state employees raise nearly \$850K for charity

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PROVIDENCE – The R.I. State Employees Charitable Appeal, which this year raised \$844,495 to assist community agencies statewide, today recognized campaign volunteers for their record-setting efforts with a luncheon at the Providence Marriott.

"I am humbled by the historic generosity of the thousands of state employees who opened their hearts to charities all over Rhode Island," said Dr. Ellen Nelson, the director of the R.I. Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals and this year's SECA chairperson, said in a statement.

SECA reaches out to state employees in the workplace, asking for donations that the workers can direct to a variety of community-based organizations, including The Autism Project of Rhode Island, Make-A-Wish, the Potter League for Animals, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and The Fund for Community Progress.

This year's campaign exceeded both expectations and previous records, surpassing last year's results by nearly \$15,000, Nelson said. She offered "a special thanks to all contributors, including Gov. [Donald L.] Carcieri, who kicked off the campaign by signing his own pledge card."

R.I. General Treasurer Frank T. Caprio also assisted with this year's fundraising effort, said Suzy Alba, SECA campaign director for the United Way of Rhode Island.

But she credited most of the campaign's success to the volunteer coordinators who organized fundraising efforts in 50 participating state agencies. Those volunteers and their departments were honored today at the 24th annual SECA Awards Luncheon with a variety of awards based on fundraising performance and participation.

Top honors went to the campaign coordinators for six departments that achieved 100-percent participation, Alba told Providence Business News. "Yes, that means every single person in their department participated," she said. "Some of them are smaller departments – well, most of them are small – but still, that's pretty amazing."

Honored with the 100% Participation Award were:

- Annette Armstrong, campaign coordinator for the R.I. Office of the Mental Health Advocate
- Carol Conley, campaign coordinator for the R.I. State Council on the Arts
- Kathleen Crawley, campaign coordinator for the R.I. Water Resources Board
- Maggie Damato, campaign coordinator for the R.I. Atomic Energy Commission
- Lori Field, campaign coordinator for the R.I. Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Kelly Monteiro Lawrence, campaign coordinator for the R.I. Office of the Child Advocate

Conley said in a statement that, although she was proud to receive the award, her main goal was to "raise the level of awareness."